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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

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HOLD YOUR HOSES

Lessons from the drought: Sprinkling rules start earlier, run longer

metroNEWS

ALEXANDER SCHEUBER/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Motorists' modified muffler rattles residents

NOISE REGULATIONS

Amplified vehicles have people 'hearing' red

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

When Dayle Mosley awakens to his bedroom windows violently rattling and shaking at night, he doesn't worry Vancouver has been hit by a mega-quake.

Accompanied by a fearsome but familiar snarl, he knows the ear-splitting noise is simply a passing motorbiker's muffler, modified to crank up its volume.

"It's loud as hell," the East Vancouver resident told Metro. "You've gotta pause your TV sometimes just to let their noise pass."

It's a problem that's been escalating for the last two or three years, says the retired father of four, who's also a motorbike enthusiast. "It's been getting visibly — well, audibly — worse."

But why can drivers get away with making excessive noise at any hour of the day, Mosley asked, despite noise regulations and time-of-day bylaws for construction, garbage trucks and music venues?

He's familiar with those laws as president of East Vancouver's Wise Hall, which runs a lounge and concert venue. The venue frets about its late-night noise to avoid neighbours' complaints.

"I don't see why it's any different for these motorbikes or cars," Mosley said.

He's not the only Vancouverite raising concerns about noisy vehicles in residential areas.

> It's been getting visibly — well, audibly — worse.
> Dayle Mosley

"It's ridiculous that you can get a ticket for breaking the law by not having parts installed to muffle your sound," Vancouver-West End MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert told Metro, "but it seems perfectly legal to install parts that break those laws."

The MLA said he's spoken to police who told him that even when cops issue a ticket or warning to such motorists, without decibel measurements it may not hold up in court. Chandra Herbert wants B.C. to crack down on businesses that install noise-makers, and to lower vehicles' acceptable decibel levels.

Vancouver police and B.C.'s transportation ministry were unavailable for comment before publication.

It's not just louder-than-necessary bikes raising a ruckus, the MLA added. His constituents have also complained about what he calls "boom cars" outfitted with bone-jarring subwoofer speakers, as well as regular cars with modified mufflers to raise their racket.

"It's an annoyance that only pleases the driver who likes to be loud," Chandra Herbert said. The phenomenon has rankled him when trying to enjoy a sunny restaurant or bar patio in the summer with friends.

"All of a sudden you can't hear each other because some dude wants to be as loud as possible," he said. "I understand there's going to be some noise, but there's no reason you have to make it worse just to be way louder than everything else."

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Making friends: Service launches in Germany to help refugees and locals meet up. **World**

Advocates praising plan to protect trans people

POLITICS

Legislation to cement rights was 'long in the making'

David P. Ball
For Metro

Transgender advocates are praising a federal bill set to be introduced Tuesday in Ottawa by the Liberals with New Democrat support.

The proposed legislation, which the justice minister is set to table on the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, is "progressive and powerful," said the chair of the Vancouver-based Trans Alliance Society.

"They really listened to the community and to the facts," Morgane Oger told Metro on the steps of her Vancouver home. "Now they've pulled through.

"They didn't let fearful mentalities or a socially conservative mindset get in the way."

Following laws already in place in four provinces — but not in B.C. — the bill explicitly bans discriminating on the basis of both gender identity, which is how a person thinks of themselves, and gender expression, which is how they present themselves or how they are perceived by others.

Naming that distinction in law is important to many in the transgender community.

Drew Dennis, principal partner of the Vancouver-based TransFocus Consulting, said they are "elated" by a bill that is "long in the making."

"Bills kept getting introduced that never passed their second reading," they said. "This explicitly makes it much more clear to employers and landlords that transgender rights are protected.

"It's also a signal to transgender people that we will be protected; it makes it clear for everybody."

Oger estimated there are 165,000 transgender Canadians who would benefit from the legislation, many of whom face discrimination and violence on the basis of their gender expression. She herself was assaulted two years ago because of how her gender was perceived by the attacker.

"The next thing I knew, boom — there was violence," she recalled. "It's 2016, but people don't know or understand that this kind of thing is actually against the law.

"Transphobia is still perfectly acceptable. It's perfectly acceptable for people in B.C. to say that I'm not a woman, or to say I'm a mentally ill man who thinks that 'he' is a woman."

Now, Dennis said, the transgender community is watching closely for whether the government will commit any resources to ending transphobia.

"But we can anticipate this will be a turning point and create a bit of a ripple effect," they said.

Morgane Oger, chair of the Trans Alliance Society, outside her Vancouver home. Oger is optimistic about forthcoming legislation to protect Trans rights in Canada. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

165,000

The number of Canadians who would directly benefit from new legislation intended to make clear the rights enjoyed by trans people in Canada, as estimated by Morgane Oger.

> **It's 2016, but people don't know or understand that this kind of thing is actually against the law.**
> Morgane Oger, chair of the Trans Alliance Society, about violence targeting trans people

HEALTH

Mumps vaccine advised

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health is urging people to get vaccinated for mumps after an outbreak in Whistler.

According to the health authority, eight mumps cases have been recently reported among young adults in Whistler.

In an effort to respond to the outbreak, additional vaccination clinics have been opened by VCH, including one Monday at the Whistler Public Health building (4380 Lorimer Road) from noon to 4 p.m.

Mumps is a viral illness that causes fever and swelling of the salivary glands in the face, and can lead to rare complications including meningitis, deafness and sterility.

Anyone who is uncertain whether they've been vaccinated for the illness is being encouraged to get immunized as soon as possible.

Those born after Jan. 1, 1970 will require two doses of the mumps vaccine, while just one dose is needed for people born between Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec. 31, 1969.

People born before 1957 are considered protected.

People who think they have mumps are told to stay home from work and social events, and to contact their doctor before visiting a clinic to avoid infected other patients and staff.

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3 ITEMS HIGHLIGHTED AT MONDAY NIGHT'S PARK BOARD MEETING

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The park board is expected to approve an agreement that would see beach chairs and umbrellas rental service open at English Bay. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

1 Beach chair pilot project

Park board commissions will vote on whether to award Blue Hole Investments with a two-year pilot program agreement to operate a beach chair and umbrella rental service at English Bay. Staff believe such services, popular at tourism hot spots the world over, bring value to tourist destinations and could provide the board with a new source of revenue. The recommended two-year period will allow the board to determine overall market appeal and whether the program is beneficial for the park board itself. According to the staff report, Blue Hole is a Canadian-owned hotel management company. They would set up (and take down) a tent on the beach daily, where chairs and umbrellas can be rented by the hour, half- or full-day. Fees to the board will be set at 16 to 18 per cent of annual gross revenues.

2 Pigeon Park cleanup

Green Party commissioners Michael Wiebe and Stuart Mackinnon will move a motion Monday to ask staff to "bring Pigeon Park to the standard of other Vancouver neighbourhood parks." According to the motion, this includes a face-lift for the Downtown Eastside space that could feature a three-tiered water fountain, community art installations, a creative needle disposal box and revitalized horticulture.

3 Official tree of Vancouver?

Park board chair Sarah Kirby-Yung is introducing a motion to find Vancouver's official tree. Her motion says the city has an official flag, badge, coat of arms, mace flower, colour and emblem but lacks a tree to call its own. She proposes a public search that provides "an opportunity for the public to learn about and nominate worthy trees ... for consideration" for the tree that best represents the city. If approved, a winner would be announced during Tree Week 2017. City council would have to endorse and adopt the winner to make it official.

B.C. LEGISLATURE

Applause ban rejected with ovation

It was the loudest cheer of her political career. Too bad she was calling for silence.

Vicki Huntington said she could only smile as her plea to ban applause in B.C.'s often raucous legislature was met with deafening applause and prolonged desk thumping from a chamber packed with cheering Liberals and New Democrats.

One of two Independent members, Huntington said clapping and back slapping take up too much time in the 30 minutes allotted for question periods in the legislature. She said such antics also send the wrong message about decorum and civility to the public, especially schoolchildren on field trips as they watch politicians yelling at each other and pounding their desks.

"I'm not saying don't clap during a good speech," Huntington said. "I'm not saying don't clap during a point made during debate. I'm just saying let's get down to the business of asking questions in a civil manner."

She said she tried last month to put forward a motion for debate to ban applause during question period but it was rejected by the government and the Opposition New Democrats saying there were other pressing matters.

Huntington said she calculated the amount of time clapping and congratulating actually takes up during question periods.

MLA Vicki Huntington
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's about 20 minutes a week," she said. "Put that together this session, it's about three-and-a-half hours. That's seven question periods and over 100 questions lost." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FIRE NO ONE INJURED AFTER APARTMENT BLAZE A firefighter sprays water on a large fire at Pacific Avenue and Johnston Road in White Rock on Sunday morning. The blaze broke out in an under-construction apartment building around 5 a.m. and quickly spread to a community hall and a nearby apartment building. Tenants were ordered to evacuate and it appears several units have been damaged. Officials say everyone appears to be accounted for and no one is injured. The City of White Rock also issued a boil-water advisory. SHANE MACKICHAN/FOR METRO

City sprinkling rules start earlier

WATER

They will also be in effect until Oct. 15 to ensure supply

Annual lawn sprinkling regulations took effect across the Vancouver area on Sunday, two weeks earlier than normal.

Metro Vancouver board chairman Greg Moore says the regional district learned many lessons from the 2015 drought and wants to ensure an adequate supply of high-quality treated drinking water for the region.

He says the early sprinkling rules this year will extend to Oct. 15, two weeks longer than usual.

Metro Vancouver says the Seymour and Capilano reservoirs are currently full, and snowpack on the North Shore mountains is estimated at 60 per cent of normal.

Moore believes that should be enough to get the region through a hot summer, if the rules are respected.

The rules call on residents of even-numbered addresses to sprinkle lawns between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, while those in odd-numbered addresses may sprinkle on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

"If everyone respects the sprinkling regulations, and many chose to simply let their lawns go dormant knowing they will green up in the fall, we hope to meet our conservation targets without escalating restrictions," says Darrell Mussatto, chairman of Metro Vancouver's utilities committee.

On average, about one billion litres of water are used daily in Metro Vancouver, but that number increases to more than 1.5 billion litres daily during summer.

Regulations have been effective in capping consumption, Moore says, adding sprinkling rules have cut per capita water use in the region by roughly 25 per cent since 1993, despite a steadily increasing population.

The rules apply to lawn sprinkling only and not to watering flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees.

"We encourage people to enjoy their flowers but not to waste treated drinking water on unnecessary outdoor esthetic purposes," Moore says. "When indoors, use your appliances more efficiently by washing dishes and laundry only when there is a full load." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Running water coming to Victoria tent city

Plumbing is being installed at a tent city set up on the lawn of Victoria's court house.

The province is installing running water and a flushing toilet at the homeless camp, where about 100 people have been living since last spring.

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps says the plumbing comes in response to neighbourhood concerns, such as the smell associated with the camp's port-a-potties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT RULING

Family can't adopt girl who was in their care

A judge has ruled that an Alberta couple cannot adopt a little girl who has been in their care for more than five years because they are not British Columbia residents.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Barbara Young says in a decision released online Friday that the director of adoption erred when she placed the girl, who is now six, with the Alberta family who was already caring for her half-sister. The girl's biological father argued that the director did not have the authority to place the girl with the family because legislation governing adoptions in B.C. says prospective adoptive parents must be residents of the province.

The director argued the purpose of the legislation is to create a new, permanent family that is in the best interests of the child.

Young disagreed, saying once a child is placed for adoption outside of the province, the director no longer has control, which is important in case the adoption does not work out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wearing Fort Mac close to your heart

JEWELRY

Designer sells necklace inspired by fire-torn city

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

For the people displaced from the Fort McMurray fire, their heart remains in their community. Now, an Edmonton jewelry designer is giving them an opportunity to show it.

Kristine MacDonald, who has sold copper jewelry through her website for several years, is now selling a piece with an outline of the province of Alberta and a heart over Fort McMurray.

MacDonald said it's a symbol for all the people who have had to leave their homes, because of the horrific fire.

PM Justin Trudeau, left, and Fire Chief Darby Allen look over the devastation in Fort McMurray on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's something that they can wear that is a reminder of home and symbol of the pride they have in their city," she said.

She posted the necklace on her website on Thursday and had to take it down on Friday afternoon, because she couldn't keep up with the demand. She plans to post it for sale again on Monday.

"I make them to order, so it just became way more than I can actually do."

Fort McMurray remains evacuated as workers move to restore utilities and put out remaining hot spots in the city.

The necklace with a heart over Fort McMurray. METRO

MacDonald said while most of the billing addresses are from Fort McMurray, the necklace is being shipped to evacuees all over the country.

"The shipping addresses have been all over Canada, mostly to the east coast."

MacDonald gave $5 from every one of the initial purchases to the Red Cross and any further sales will have the same amount donated to the Alberta SPCA and the Edmonton Food Bank.

ACCIDENT

Skydiver brightened rooms, friends say

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Kristin Czyz loved the big sky, sushi and a good glass of wine, according to close friends.

On Friday evening, the 34-year-old Canadian died when her parachute failed after jumping off Perrine Bridge in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Sunday, Czyz's close friends remembered the ambitious woman who was full of energy.

Kristin Czyz CONTRIBUTED

"She was one of those types of people that when she walked in the room she made other people smile," said Dave Withrow, manager of Skydive Big Sky in Innisdail. "Just by being there."

POLITICS

NDP to name new leader next year

The federal NDP has opted for an extended leadership race to replace Tom Mulcair, as it looks to name a new leader between September and October of 2017.

The decision comes after around 100 New Democrats gathered at an Ottawa hotel Sunday to carve out the terms for the race, a process launched after Mulcair was flatly rejected as the party's long-term leader at a convention in Edmonton last month.

The NDP's national director, Karl Belanger, said members of the party's governing body agreed on Sunday that more time is needed to allow for potential candidates to organize.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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POLITICS

Walls not a solution: Obama

President Barack Obama on Sunday urged college graduates to shun those who want to confront a rapidly changing world by building walls around the United States or by embracing ignorance, as he delivered a sharp and barely concealed critique of Donald Trump.

Obama used his commencement speech at Rutgers University to illustrate a world view antithetical to the ideas espoused by the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

Looking out at a sea of red and black gowns, Obama told the roughly 12,000 graduating students that the pace of change on the planet is accelerating, not subsiding, and that recent history had proved that the toughest challenges cannot be solved in isolation.

"A wall won't stop that," Obama said, bringing to mind Trump's call for building a border wall between the U.S.

U.S. President Barack Obama THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and Mexico. "The point is, to help ourselves, we've got to help others — not pull up the drawbridge and try to keep the world out."

The president never mentioned Trump by name, but his intended target seemed clear. Repeatedly, Obama referred to disparaging comments about Muslims and immigrants, and opposition to free trade deals. But he appeared most incensed by what he described as a rejection of facts, science and intellectualism that he said was pervading politics.

"In politics and in life, ignorance is not a virtue," Obama said. "It's not cool to not know what you're talking about. That's not keeping it real or telling it like it is. That's not challenging political correctness. That's just not knowing what you're talking about," the president said.

Obama's rebuke came as Trump is close to clinching the GOP nomination, raising the prospect that November's election could portend a reversal of Obama's policies and approach to governing. In recent days, Trump has started focusing on the general election while working to unite a fractured Republican Party around his candidacy. Democrats are readying for a fight against a reality TV host they never anticipated would make it this far.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Egypt sentences 152 protesters to prison

Egyptian courts have in a single day convicted 152 protesters for breaking a law that bans demonstrations, sentencing them to up to five years in prison in a series of short mass trials. The cases are rooted in events on April 25, when police stifled planned demonstrations. Police arrested more than 1,200 people, but released most of them without charge. However, nearly 300 were referred to trial for breaking the law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERRORISM

Daesh attacks kill 29 people in Iraq

Daesh launched a co-ordinated assault on a natural-gas plant north of Baghdad that killed at least 14 people, while a string of other bomb attacks in or close to the capital killed 15 others, Iraqi officials said.

The attack on the gas plant started at dawn with a suicide car bomber hitting the facility's main gate in the town of Taji, about 20 kilometres north of Baghdad. Then several suicide bombers and militants broke into the plant and clashed with the security forces, an official said, adding that 27 troops were wounded.

The Daesh-affiliated Aamaq news agency credited "Caliphate soldiers" for the attack.

In a statement, Deputy Oil Minister Hamid Younis said firefighters managed to control and extinguish a fire caused by the explosions. Younis said technicians were examining the damage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cindy Spieker, Ahmed Haj Ali, Paul Spieker and Abdul Wahab, from left, get together in Berlin, Germany. The group met through a website called Let's integrate! that connects refugees and locals. JONA KALLGREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Germans make new friends

BERLIN

Let's integrate! helps refugees and Germans meet and talk

Cindy Spieker and Ahmed Haj Ali make an L and I sign for 'Let's Integrate.' JONA KALLGREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

During the height of the migrant crisis in Europe last fall, Lasse Landt came to a startling realization.

Thousands of migrants were pouring into Germany every day, but the 36-year-old startup consultant from Berlin hadn't met a single one of them.

"It was all over the media, every day on the talk shows you had people talking about the refugee crisis. I had never seen a refugee," said Landt. "I just wanted to find out if it was real."

His experience is typical for most Germans, and many have volunteered with charitable groups in part to meet the migrants they're hearing so much about. But Landt went further — and the result is a kind of dating website for Germans and migrants, albeit without the romantic aspect.

Together with Khaled Alaswad, a 25-year-old Syrian he met at a computer coding class for migrants in Berlin, Landt started a project to help refugees and locals meet up. Called Let's integrate!, it allows users to pick a time and location and set up a "date."

The idea is to set as low a hurdle as possible for the meeting. No preparation is needed — people just need to show up and hopefully have a good conversation. Or if the language barrier is too high, have a conversation with hand signals.

Alaswad said his friendship with Landt has helped him land on his feet in Germany.

"If the refugees never talk face to face with a local person, they will never know anything about the culture here," he said.

Germany registered around 1.1 million irregular migrants in 2015, most of them refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. But with the closure of the Balkans migration route from Greece to Germany, the number of migrants coming in has dropped dramatically this year.

The authorities are focusing on having migrants learn the language and get jobs. The German government has promised to introduce subsidized workplaces earmarked for refugees.

"In Germany, we have a very technocratic view of integration," said Landt. "It is basically, you do a language class, you get a job and then you are integrated. But really, it is very much about social contact."

Let's integrate! was launched May 1 and so far at least a dozen meetings have taken place. More Germans have signed up than migrants, so organizers are putting up posters in refugee homes to try to even out the numbers.

One of the first meetings was between two Syrians and two Germans. Abdul Wahab, an 18-year-old Syrian, said he simply did an Internet search for "Integration Germany" and found the page. Ahmed Haj Ali, a 23-year-old refugee from Damascus, found the website on Facebook. Haj Ali and Wahab met with Cindy and Paul Spieker, two siblings from Berlin.

"When you meet, you realize that they are people like us and there is no need to be worried," said Paul Spieker.

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Returning one too many

RETAIL

Refusing too many items can land customers in hot water

Staff at the U.K.'s Amazon Swansea fulfilment centre process orders. GETTY IMAGES

This is how it starts.

You love shopping online. You're not always super-careful about how many items you return because you believe in the no-hassle returns promise made by the retailer.

So you buy that camera to test it out. Some of the features are buggy, and you send it back. You buy a blazer in three different sizes but none of them fit right, so you return them all. You take a chance on that electronic device that is ridiculously cheap and it turns out to be junk. You send that back, too.

But buyer beware, a high rate of returned items can lead to a retailer banning customers, including online giants like Amazon.

Stories of being banned from Amazon populate the web.

Lucas Bean, 40, a California entrepreneur who describes himself as an Amazon fanboy, is one person who ran afoul of Amazon's return policy.

"I was basically an Amazon-brand ambassador," says Bean, who was an early adopter of online shopping.

He says his problems began in 2015, after he moved and Amazon continued to deliver parcels to his former address. He bought a video camera (from Amazon) to prove that deliveries weren't being made to his new home.

He refused to accept delivery of a damaged television. He returned a Samsung bluetooth headset because he thought it was counterfeit. But he also admits to returning some things that weren't worth returning.

> **I have the right to return something that is broken.**
> Lucas Bean

"I've returned quite a few items that were poor quality," says Bean. "But I have the right to return something that is broken."

Returns create multiple costs for retailers. Some pay for return postage, and even if they don't, restocking items costs money. If items are sold out of season, they have to be sold at a reduced price, or sold in bulk to a re-seller, liquidator or jobber, or at an affiliated clearance warehouse.

The items show up at flea markets, dinged or worn-looking or without a box, and some brands would rather trash their returned goods than have that happen.

Last year, $290 billion of sales were returned in the United States and Canada, according to statistics from The Retail Equation, a firm that provides return-optimization services to retailers.

Eight per cent of purchases from brick-and-mortar retail sales are returned. But up to 30 per cent of e-commerce exchanges involve a returned item.

An estimated 10 per cent of returns are thought to be either fraudulent or a misrepresentation of the facts — a fake receipt or someone returning something bought a year ago instead of yesterday, says Stephen O'Keefe, a loss prevention specialist with the Retail Council of Canada.

What many people don't know is that such scams could result in criminal charges. "If you buy a new television and put the old one into the box and try to return it, that's a fraud," says O'Keefe.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANIMAL WELFARE

Beef industry changes

When Ben Campbell heard Earls was switching to Certified Humane beef from the U.S., he had a different reaction than many Alberta ranchers.

The 32-year-old raises grass-fed cattle without added hormones at his ranch in Black Diamond, about 60 kilometres southwest of Calgary. He sells directly to customers, often inviting them to visit the rolling hills where his animals graze.

To Campbell, Earls' decision was a response to a trend he had seen firsthand: growing consumer demand for ethical meat. And though Earls backtracked after a social media slaughtering, Campbell said the beef industry can learn from the controversy.

Alberta ranchers say Canada is a leader in animal welfare standards. But companies like Earls and McDonald's are increasingly finding that customers, especially millennials, want proof that meat was raised humanely — forcing the industry to embrace certification programs it once resisted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, May 16, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

At my local convenience store, I was told the law says when a customer has more than five lottery tickets, other customers must be helped first. I've never heard of such a law. And there was no sign letting people know about it. What should I have done?

Dear Ellen,

I recently checked my lottery tickets at a Mac's convenience store. I had less than 10 tickets and was the only customer when I handed them over to the employee at the till. But when another customer came in, she put my tickets aside to help him. As more customers came in, another employee showed up and checked my tickets. I asked why I was made to wait since I was first at the till. They told me there is a law (or bylaw) that says when a customer has more than five tickets, they have to help other customers first. Does this law (or bylaw) really exist? Probably they were right and I don't want to get mad at them. But I have never seen a sign letting customers know about such a law (or bylaw).

Regards,
M.M.F.

©Ani Castillo

Dear M.M.F.,

You certainly don't need any etiquette advice. It sounds as if you handled the situation perfectly. You were told to wait, you politely waited and, when you asked why you were made to wait, you graciously accepted their explanation.

Which, by the way, is utter hogwash.

I'm not sure what city you're writing from, but (after a quick Google search and accessing my own common-sense circuits) I'll bet you 10 winning lottery tickets that no such law or bylaw exists there or anywhere else in Canada.

I'll bet you 10 winning lottery tickets that no such law exists anywhere in Canada.

Nor would such a law make sense. The store is profiting on its sale of lottery tickets, and part of the service included in the sale is to check the tickets. Value judgments about the commodity being sold do not legally apply. The customer who shows up to buy milk is not entitled to better service than a customer who buys lottery tickets.

Individual stores, such as Mac's, might have a private-company policy that customers with multiple lottery tickets must wait while other customers are served first. But if your convenience store has this policy, you are right to expect the rule to be made clear on a sign near the till.

In an effort to be as gracious as you, I will concede the possibility that the employees you dealt with were not malicious liars or rude, incompetent dimwits. It's possible the store has such a policy, but management didn't bother to put up a sign. It's possible the store has such a policy, but the employees were confused about the difference between the words "policy" and "law" or "bylaw." It's possible that once upon a time there really was a giant, crystal-clear sign near the till, but it blew away in a mysterious gust of wind one dark night when a comic book superhero dropped by to pick up milk, because of the laws and bylaws that require special effects whenever a lead character enters a scene.

In any case, dear M.M.F., I commend you on your excellent manners, and suggest that you write to Mac's management directly. Describe what happened, ask about store policy around checking multiple tickets, and — if the policy exists — suggest they make sure a sign is in place instead of allowing employees to intimidate loyal customers such as yourself with tales of imaginary laws.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Keeping women from the priesthood is keeping us from power

It is odd, the things you do and do not discuss with your mother.

I'm a faithful child of a devout Catholic (the long delayed delivery of an annotated Bible has caused her melancholy lately), and an avowed feminist, but I can't recall ever debating the maleness of the church with my mom.

Most Sundays of my childhood and many since, after listening to yet another man preach, we never turned to each other and said: "So, what do you think about that?"

I know what I think. I think it's bulls--t. I think God created Adam in human form, and the maleness was not the point, though highly convenient for such a patriarchal time. (Jesus' sex is a main reason given for the men-only priesthood.)

Other arguments to keep women out of the clergy are laughable. Take Rev. Wojciech Giertych, Pope Benedict XVI's theologian, who told the Catholic Register in 2013 that men are "more likely to think of God in terms of philosophical definitions and logical syllogisms" — i.e. , more likely to use reason. Oh, and men also think in a "male way" about "the building of the church, about the roof of the church which is leaking, about the bishop's conferences." Right.

It's not just the priesthood, the key mechanism of power, which is kept from women. We are also excluded from other ministries.

Last week Pope Francis, our slow moving source of hope, vowed to strike a commission to study whether women can be deacons — ordained ministers who can conduct marriages, funerals and prayers, but not mass.

Women were deacons in the early church, and it's something Quebec archbishop Paul-André Durocher had advocated as a way to increase roles for women.

To quote my mother, the move would be "baby steps." But to quote her again, "The Pope has a lot on the go."

I called her yesterday to finally get her take on the justification that priests are men because the apostles were. "I have to admit I'm not persuaded," she said. "Women were the ones (Jesus) revealed himself to at the tomb," after all.

A full 75 per cent of Canadian Catholics support the idea of women priests, never mind the lesser deacons. But we shouldn't hold our breath while theologians like Giertych hold sway. "The relationship of love, of attachment, the spousal relationship to Christ is easier for the woman," he said. "So women don't need the priesthood ... because their mission is so beautiful in the church anyway."

With women in the church, it seems it really does always come down to sexuality.

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Shia LaBeouf to play tennis rebel John McEnroe in film about his rivalry with Swedish star Bjorn Borg

Tapping our way into debt

NEW SERVICES

Experts worry Apple Pay and other tech will blow budgets

Technology is making buying things easier, but credit counsellors want you to remember that paying for them is still as difficult as ever.

Jeff Schwartz, executive director of Consolidated Credit Counseling Services of Canada, says the ease with which consumers can buy things these days could spell trouble for those who have difficulty controlling their spending.

"It is allowing many consumers to avoid the harsh reality of what is going on inside their bank account or even inside their wallet," he said.

With the expansion of Apple Pay this week, Canadians added yet another way to quickly pay for their purchases without even opening their wallets.

The addition of the big Canadian banks to the service adds to the already numerous ways shoppers have to pay for things quickly, including Interac Flash, MasterCard Tap & Go, Visa payWave, and American Contactless Payments.

Schwartz said the physical aspect of pulling out your wallet and taking the cash out to make a purchase is very different from using a phone.

"You really have to say that I am willing, ready and able and want to make this purchase," he said.

While a smartphone can help make it **easier to spend money**, it can also **help track spending** if you use a budgeting app. ISTOCK

"There is a real mental link between you actually going in and making that purchase versus just whipping open your phone, throwing it on the scanner and you're done."

The plethora of new ways for people to more easily spend their hard-earned dollars comes amid concerns about household debt levels.

Statistics Canada has reported that for the fourth quarter of last year, the ratio of household debt to disposable income climbed to a new peak of $1.65 in debt for every dollar earned after taxes and other fees paid to government.

Credit counsellor Pamela George says the convenience of the new ways to pay for purchases can be problematic for some individuals.

"The problems happen where people are just putting it on a credit card and they don't have a clue where or how they're paying it," said George, who works at the Credit Counselling Society in Ottawa.

She recommends clients withdraw the cash they've allocated in their budget and when it is spent, they're done.

"The problem starts when you don't track your spending and then you just keep swiping the card," she said.

But technology can also be used to help.

While a smartphone can help make it easier to spend money, it can also help track spending if you use a budgeting app.

Schwartz's says his agency offers a free app for Apple devices that allows users to keep a record of spending and download it to a spreadsheet.

"That is the upside to the technology. But the basis behind it is budgeting and understanding what money you have coming in, understanding what money you have going out and understanding what money you have potentially available," he said.

George recommends her clients simply stick to cash if they really want to control their spending.

"It is harder to break a $20 bill for a $3 cup of coffee than it is to just tap a card," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$ WORKING

Former bank exec works for equality in C-suite

Jennifer Reynolds spent 15 years working in capital markets, but three years ago, she'd finally had enough of being the only woman at the table.

"It never occurred to me that in 2016, the boardrooms of this country would look the way they look," she said.

Reynolds (pictured left) moved on, and is now president of Women in Capital Markets, an organization bent on making space for more women in that very place. Efforts to diversify financial institutions' workforces have reached the C-suite and executive offices. The push includes educating girls about the financial industry in high school, Reynolds says.

In Canada, more than 60 per cent of university graduates are women, but Statistics Canada found women are less likely to choose a science, technology, engineering and math program "regardless of mathematical ability."

Roman Dubzcak, CIBC's head of global investment banking, says you have to see how many women are working in junior roles and extrapolate that into the future to figure out when we'll start seeing more female execs in Canadian banks. "It could be really, really soon."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Interested in a job in security? We will be interviewing for several positions across the Lower Mainland at our upcoming Hiring Fair.
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YOU CAN DO THIS PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER

‘My purpose ... is to bring people comfort’

WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Khelie Mulligan, 42, PSW and Geriatric Activity Coordinator at Douglas Care, Victoria, BC

From a young age I volunteered as a personal care attendant. I was always interested in helping people with Alzheimer's disease. My grandfather was a doctor and seeing his own health decline as he aged motivated me to learn more about how I can help people living with dementia.

I attended Victoria Elder Care College to obtain certification as a personal support worker (PSW) and resident care attendant, before obtaining a diploma in geriatric activity coordination at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. My practicum in geriatric healthcare was at Douglas Care Trillium Communities, where I later obtained a full-time position as PSW and part-time role as activity coordinator for about 30 residents with advanced dementia.

My main job is to organize daily activities based on residents' needs and mental/physical states of being, including outdoor activities and birthday events. My purpose in career and in life is to bring people comfort — whether it's for a resident, friend or family member. This field can be very rewarding, but also challenging and emotional as it's difficult to lose people you care about. PSWs never stop working. But we love to have fun; we do a lot of laughing and singing with the residents ... Or I'll sing and they'll laugh.

THE BASICS: Personal Support Worker

$30,604

Median wage of personal support workers, according to PayScale.com. The average wage works out to be about **$15.40** per hour. Some PSWs can earn up to **$42,149** as they advance to positions in long-term care and disability support.

+13.8%

amount of growth expected in this field over the next 8 years.

Data for this feature was provided by payscale.com, personalsupportworkerhq.com, statcan.gc.ca, nahb.ca, onetonline.org and jobbank.gc.ca

HOW TO START

Most colleges across Canada offer relevant PSW programs, with the option of doing a placement in a retirement home, private home or clinical care setting to assist a range of clients with daily living activities and personal care requirements.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

In 2015, the number of Canadians aged 65 and up stood at approximately 5.8 million. By 2035, the same demographic is projected to reach 10.1 million. A current shortage of workers in this occupation means there's a wealth of opportunities. The replacement demand because of retirements also calls for more assistants specializing in other areas of medicine like neurology and geriatrics.

NEXT CAREER STEP

Having a least one year of steady experience aids in advancement. A PSW will find it easier to transition into roles of registered practical nurse or registered nurse with hands-on clinical care training, and some employers may encourage specialized training courses to improve knowledge.

STUDY

A look at learning new languages

If you struggled with languages at school then a new U.S. study may provide you with an excuse, finding that some adults learn a second language better than others thanks to the rhythms of activity in their brains.

The small-scale study, by researchers at the University of Washington, is the first to use resting-state brain rhythms to predict the future rate of language learning, showing that just a five-minute measurement of resting-state brain activity could predict how quickly adults would learn a second language.

For their study researchers recruited 19 participants aged 18 to 31 with no previous experience of learning French.

The participants had to sit with their eyes closed for five minutes while wearing an EEG (electroencephalogram) headset to measure naturally occurring patterns of brain activity.

Participants then received immersive, 30-minute French lessons twice a week for eight weeks using a fast-paced virtual reality computer program.

At the end of the program participants completed a proficiency test to see how far they had progressed with their language learning.

The researchers found that brain activity predicted 60 percent of an adult's ability to learn a second language.

The patterns of brain activity related to language processes were also linked most strongly to the participants' rate of learning, with the results also showing that although the fastest person learned twice as quickly as the slower learners, the slower learners learned just as well.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Get thee to the beach

ISTOCK

Vancouver's beaches are phenomenal, but not all are created equal. When choosing a patch of sand to plant your umbrella in this summer, make sure you choose a beach that suits your mood. Here's how to get the most out of your Vancouver beach experience.

Choose a beach to match your mood

English Bay and Kitsilano beaches are strut-your-stuff beaches, great for people watching, with rock-hard rollerbladers and volleyball hotties aplenty.

Locarno Beach on the west side and White Pine Beach in Port Moody are more low-key and kid-friendly.

Wreck Beach is considered one of Vancouver's most beautiful beaches, also known for its clothing-optional policy and hippy vibe.

Give yourself lots of time to get there

It happens every time. You thought 1 p.m. was the right time to get to the beach before everyone else. But then you got stuck in traffic, then you needed to stop for food. By the time you get there, half the Lower Mainland is vying for the same parking space.

Select your time of day

The attitude of a beach can change dramatically throughout the day.

Mornings are less busy time for families with smaller children, and those just looking for more space and quiet than they might get later in the day.

Then, starting around 1 p.m., the volleyball players and barbecuers move in, staking their claim on the prime waterfront. Group events, and friend and family get-togethers generally take over the scene between 1 and 6 p.m. This is the time for volleyball and Frisbee tournaments, and swimming.

If you set up your blanket anytime past 5 p.m., get ready for the families to move on and the partiers to move in.

Get the right grub

Sunning yourself can be hard work. Find the right food to maximize your shoreside enjoyment.

If you arrive foodless, you may be subjected to concession-stand fare. Which is great if you're hankering for a hotdog and some salty fries. Make sure to visit the concession at an off-peak hour, such as 3 p.m., to avoid lining up in the hot sun.

Or pick your snacks up on the way in. Granville Island Public Market is a fun place to assemble your own spread of munchies with cheese, cured meat, bread and fruit.

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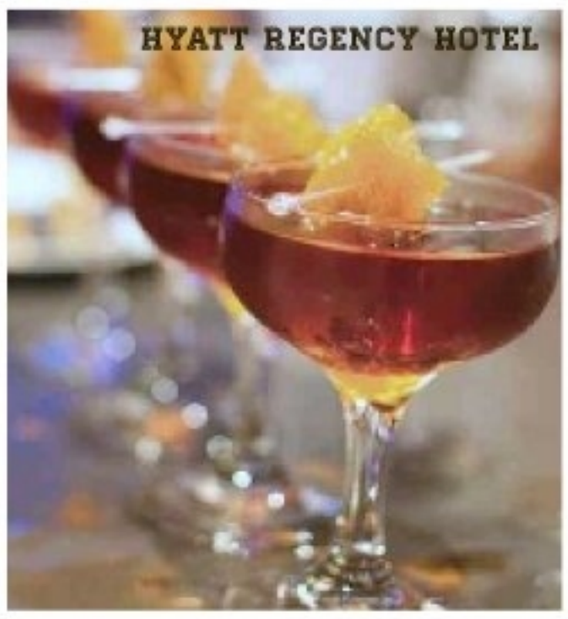

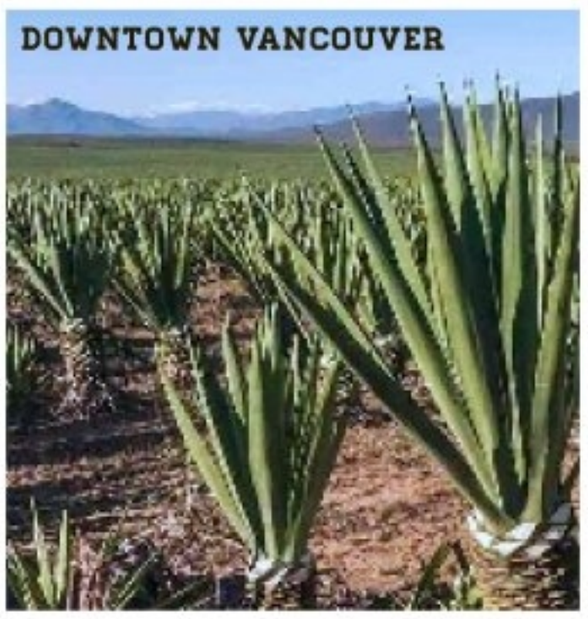

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Celebrate subtle flavours of agave

Just as France has champagne, Mexico has tequila and mezcal.

The regional specialties are gaining popularity, becoming more known in Vancouver for their subtle flavours, regional differences and food pairings.

"Tequila is about more than margaritas, and Vancouverites are gaining interest in tequila and mezcal for their complexity and depth — because it's a specialty spirit with lots of beautiful flavours," says Manuel Otero, co-founder of the Vancouver International Tequila Expo, coming to Vancouver on May 28.

"As more brands are being introduced to the market, people are learning a lot more about the spirit," he says.

The Grand Tasting is the headline event of the expo, providing beginners and aficionados alike a chance to compare and enjoy the spirits of 23 participating distilleries from Mexico.

Guests can also enjoy food pairings by six partner restaurants, including Joe Fortes and La Mezcaleria.

Tequila and mezcal are closely related, but not the same, Otero says. Tequila is a type of mezcal made from the blue agave plant, which must be grown in the Mexican state of Jalisco.

"Mezcal, on the other hand, can be made from many different varieties of agave, and is created by fire-pit roasting the heart of the plant," comments Eric Lorenz, mezcalier and festival co-founder.

"The Grand Tasting is a fun, rare chance to try and compare many beautiful different tequilas and mezcals in one place," says Otero.

To learn more, visit vantequilaexpo.com.

It's time to start planning your summer events

'Tis the season — to plan your summer events.

If you're going to hold that company barbecue, team-building event, reception, birthday party or any other event this summer, get started now.

It's the time to book your suppliers for summer, according to Tara Boddington, director of sales and marketing at Eventsage, a Vancouver-based online event-planning service.

She and her team of event planning professionals specialize in providing resources for individuals or smaller organizations that are looking to hold events or meetings, but don't want to incur the cost of hiring a professional planner.

"Many companies want to DIY their corporate events and our platform is a great way for them to find and book the perfect group activity this summer," Boddington says.

Eventsage is a quick and easy way to source ideas, communicate with suppliers, obtain quotes and book online.

To get started planning your event, create a free account on Eventsage.com and select Plan an Event to input your requirements. Then browse suppliers and send them booking requests through the online system. You can then work directly with them to arrange quotes and ask questions.

For anyone looking for a little more sourcing or planning help, the Eventsage team also provides an hourly Sage Planning Support service.

"Our platform was really built to support the people who plan small- and medium-sized functions." Boddington explains. "We lovingly take on what other planning companies typically turn away."

To learn more, visit eventsage.com.

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Jump-start your summer

If there's one place in Vancouver that brings back the thrill of childhood summers, it's Playland.

The appeal is universal.

Maybe you love the breathtaking views of the whole city from the top of the theme park's world-class rides, like Atmosfear, the double swing that raises riders 218 feet up to the sky while spinning 360 degrees at 70km/hr.

Or perhaps you prefer the straight adrenaline rush of rides like The Beast, Canada's most extreme pendulum ride. The ride swings riders to heights of more than 12 storeys at 90 km/hr, while spinning you 360 degrees.

Sometimes the tried and true favourites are still the best. Playland's vintage Wooden Roller Coaster is just as great now as it was when it was first built in 1958.

There are lots of fun activities for kids too. At Kids Playce, families can travel high into the sky in the Balloon Explorers ride, and enjoy kid-sized theme park fun in cars, trains, giant teacups, and on beautifully painted Merry-Go-Round horses.

When it comes to food, there's something for everyone, too. The diverse, mouthwatering options include pizza, burgers, cotton candy, poutine and much more.

And don't forget the mini doughnuts.

Playland is now open weekends and holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Playland opens daily June 30 to Aug. 19. Playland PlayPasses are currently available online at pne.ca, and give you access to over 30 rides and attractions.

Say hello to a better way to book group activities, caterers, venues and much more!
Receive a $5 Starbucks card when you book a supplier before May 31, 2016
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eventsage.com

metro SPORTS

Andy Murray celebrated his 29th birthday by beating Novak Djokovic on clay for the first time to win the Italian Open title on a rainy day in Rome

North shuts off Heat

RAPTORS
TORONTO WINS SERIES

Canada's team shrugs off Heat to earn first trip to East final

The Toronto Raptors had waited two decades for this moment.

And as the clock ticked down on a historic victory that launched the Raptors into the NBA Eastern Conference final for the first time in 21 years, Kyle Lowry sat on the bench, his head bowed and draped in a towel.

The Raptors' star on the day was lost in thought.

"Just the things that we'd been through this year, and how hard we've worked," Lowry said of the moment.

"Playing against a team like Miami, it pushed us to the limit, and so it was just a time to relax and just think about the things that we've done."

The Raptors head into uncharted territory against the Cleveland Cavaliers after a thorough 116-89 dismantling of Miami in Sunday's thrilling do-or-die Game 7.

Lowry had 35 points while DeMar DeRozan chipped in with 28, playing with the heart and hustle Raptors fans had seen so many times in Toronto's record-breaking 56-win regular season. And they got plenty of help, as Bismack Biyombo had 16 rebounds to go with 17 points, DeMarre Carroll chipped in with 14 points, and Patrick Patterson had 11 points and 11 boards.

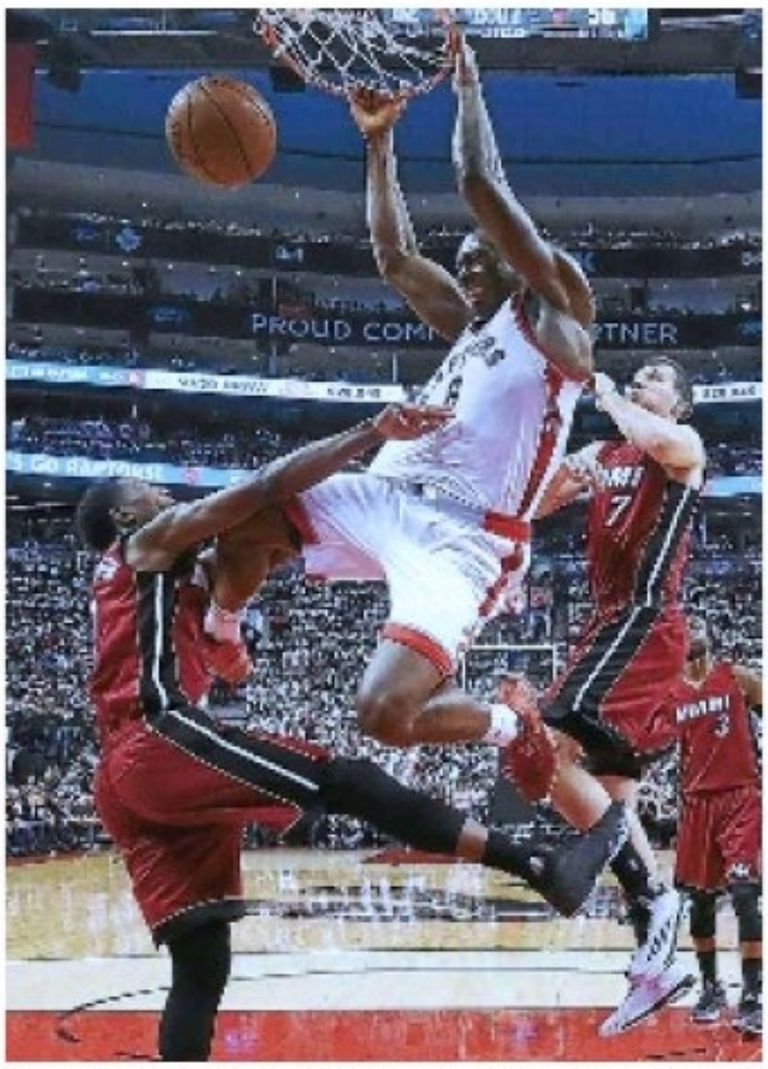
In a fierce back-and-forth series that featured three overtime games and a slew of injuries, the thrilling finale saw the Raptors lead most of the way. They battled hard on both ends of the floor with a ferocity they hadn't shown in this series, and opened up a 17-point lead in a solid third quarter.

They went into the fourth ahead 86-78, and when Biyombo muscled his way in for a monstrous dunk and then Carroll drilled a three, the delirious Air Canada Centre crowd went nuts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GAME 7 In Toronto

116	89



Raptors centre Bismack Biyombo dunks over Heat guards Josh Richardson, left, and Goran Dragic on Sunday.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL PLAYOFFS

Blues off to the races in West final

Brian Elliott had another standout game in net, David Backes and Jori Lehtera had goals and the St. Louis Blues opened their first Western Conference final in 15 years with a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Sunday night.

Tomas Hertl scored on a first-period deflection for the Sharks, who outshot St. Louis 32-23 but couldn't quite solve Elliott.

The Sharks were the best road team in the NHL in the regular season at 28-10-3, but have dropped four in a row on the road in these playoffs, including all three in the second round against Nashville.

The Blues are just 4-4 at home — the Scottrade Center — heading into Game 2 on Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAME 1 In St. Louis

2	1
BLUES	SHARKS

IN BRIEF

Flipping mad ending to Jays-Rangers series in Texas

A feud simmering since Jose Bautista's bat flip in last year's AL division series boiled over into a wild brawl in the final game of the season between Toronto and Texas, a 7-6 victory for the Rangers on Sunday. Players from both teams rushed the field as Texas second baseman Rougned Odor landed a punch to Bautista's face after a hard slide by the Toronto slugger in the eighth inning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caps hang on to beat TFC

Kekuta Manneh, with his second of the night, and Pedro Morales scored two minutes part in the second half and the Vancouver Whitecaps hung on for a wild 4-3 win over Toronto FC in MLS play Saturday.

It was Vancouver's first ever league win at BMO Field but Toronto made the visitors work for it, fighting back and coming close with the Whitecaps playing the last 15 minutes down a man.

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RECIPE Fresh Tomato Spaghetti

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The longest part of this recipe is waiting for you pasta water to boil. In minutes you'll be eating this light, fresh spring pasta.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
- 2 cups fresh tomatoes, washed and chopped
- 1 head of arugula, washed and rough chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 500 gram package of whole wheat spaghetti
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Put a big pot of well salted water on to boil. In a saute pan, bring the olive oil to low medium heat. Add minced garlic and allow to cook but not brown. Remove pan from heat.

2. Place your spaghetti noodles in the boiling water and cook as long as the package instructions dictate. Scoop out a cup of water out of the post before draining - this is a good habit to get into. The starchy water is a great way to loosen up a too-thick sauce, plus it adds a certain slickness to your pastas. Drain your noodles well before tossing them back in the pot.

3. Add the garlic-infused oil and vinegar and toss well until all of the spaghetti is well coated. Now add your tomatoes and toss again. Throw in the arugula and give it another good mix so there are pieces of green throughout. Season with salt and pepper.

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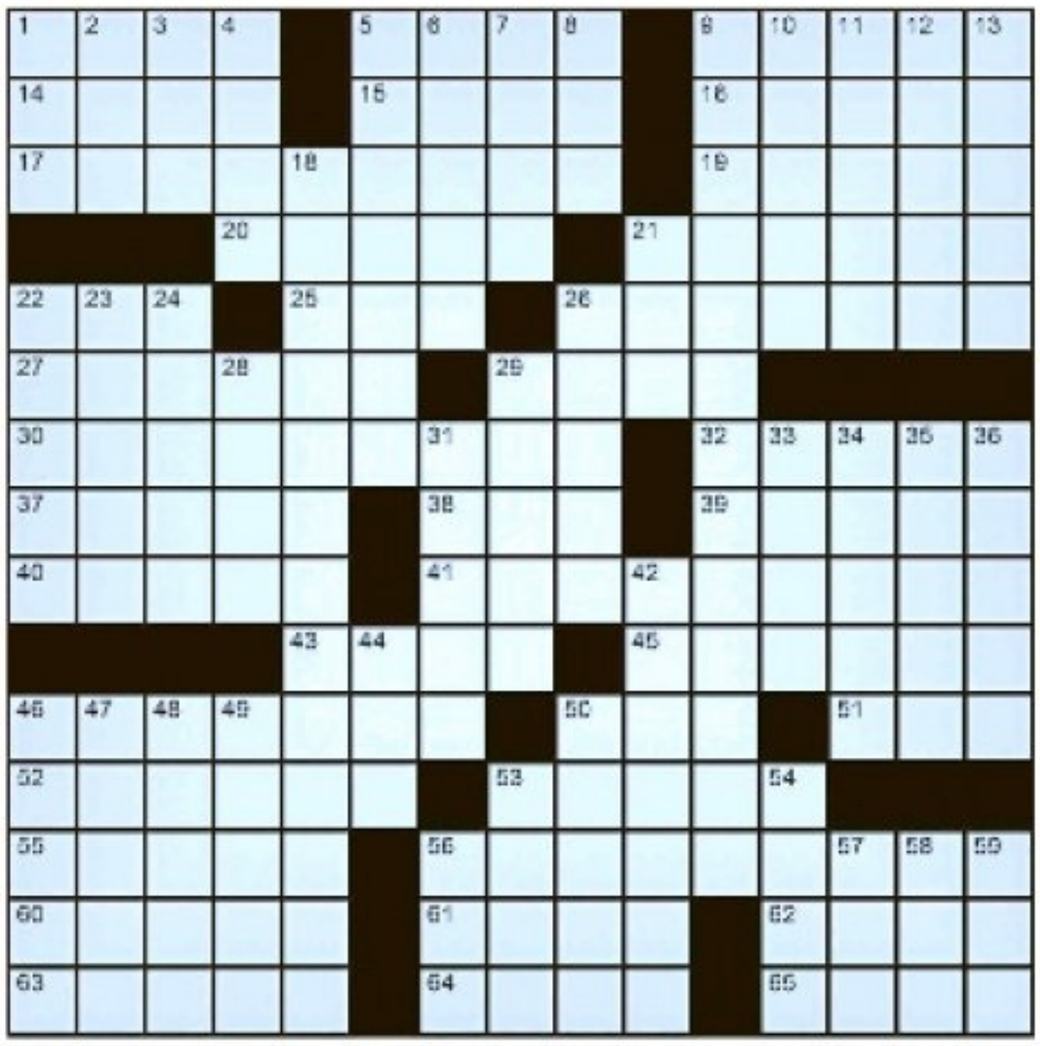
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Roger, _ and out."
5. Let it stand, in proofreading
9. Does this pre-blood test
14. Throw _ _ loop
15. Samovars
16. "_ _ favour, say 'Aye'."
17. Earlier-in-time movie scene
19. Greatly gaze
20. "When a Man Loves a Woman" by _ Sledge
21. Electric _ (Beard trimmer)
22. Cleopatra's snake
25. Thumbs-up meaning
26. Most just
27. "Toxic" by Britney _
29. Ti-Cat's foe on the football field
30. DJ's instrument
32. Bite into, puppy-style: 2 wds.
37. Gives off
38. 'Ballad' suffix
39. Concealed
40. "The Beachcombers" character
41. Chant for music-making monks
43. "Get Down _ _" by Kool & The Gang
45. Melanie's portrayer in "Gone with the Wind" (1939)
46. Posh hairstyle
50. Athlete's injury scan, commonly
51. Friends to Hmmms and Ums
52. Confines
53. Period _ (Historic flick)
55. Computer company
56. Canadian world music guitarist: 2 wds.
60. Jan _ (Dutch painter)
61. Russian city
62. 'Home of the Bisons' sch. in Winnipeg, _ _ _
63. "The Planets" composer Gustav
64. Quasi
65. Bldg. rental units

DOWN
1. Sour
2. Li'l loudness
3. 'E' of BCE
4. Vex the vocalist's vocals
5. Secretly, in Latin: 2 wds.
6. Music selection on a record
7. 'Consist' suffix
8. "For shame!"
9. Critiques-of-celebrity-styles show on E!: 2 wds.
10. Chapel area
11. "_ to Love" by Bryan Ferry
12. Loses steam
13. Hagar the Horrible's dog
18. Satisfyingly happy sounding Newfoundland town: 2 wds.
21. Droop
22. Michaelmas daisy
23. Sea foam
24. Hazard
26. Soeur's brother
28. Opposing
29. Warning signal
31. Set about
33. Yesterday, in Italy
34. Couture collection, Armani _
35. Irish tune: "Robin _"
36. Salmons canned store shelf neighbours
42. Port Perry, Ontario born co-host of #9-Down, Brad _
44. Headshakes
46. "_ of the Titans" (2010) starring Liam Neeson
47. "_ _ Be Square" by Huey Lewis & The News
48. Press onward
49. 1966 John Barth novel, _ Goat-Boy
50. Bette Midler, The Divine _ _
53. Mere's man
54. Quito is its cap.
56. _ Louis (Canadian cakes-in-a-box brand)
57. Basketball play, Alley-_
58. Commonly, curtly
59. Cdn. driving measures

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Loved ones and partners will be more important than usual today, because they give you a feeling of security and support. Right now, this is what you need.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today you might have health issues or be concerned about your health. When working with others, don't play the martyr game. Stick up for yourself.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Relations with females will improve today. Personally, you will find it difficult to conceal your feelings from others; however, don't worry about it. We all have feelings.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You might enjoy being by yourself today or cocooning at home, because you feel a need for privacy. Something might happen that makes you see how much your habits control your life.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today you want to talk to people at a real gut level. You don't want to spend time in superficial conversation talking about the weather.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Earnings, cash flow and your possessions will be your focus today. In fact, it will please you to be surrounded by familiar objects from your past. You might want to clean or repair them.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, which makes you more emotional and subjective. Your concerns are about yourself, and this is just fine.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will be tempted to withdraw from others today because you feel the need for privacy. Indeed, this is a good day to be alone so that you can get a better handle on your life.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Friendships are important to you today. You might feel protective about a friend, even jealous. It's also a good day to examine your goals.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
For some reason, aspects of your personal life might be put on public display today, or you might find it difficult to hide things about yourself.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do something different today, because you have an urge for adventure. Break free from your daily routine. Go someplace you've never been before.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your emotional experiences are more intense than usual today. However, don't worry about this. It's just the Moon passing through a certain part of your chart.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

				9				
			6	7	5		9	3
5		2				7		8
3		4				9		7
6	8						1	4
	5						2	
		9				6		
		5	1		9	4		
			3	2	4			

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7	3	5	8	9	6	4	1	2
9	2	8	5	4	1	6	7	3
3	1	9	4	7	5	2	6	8
5	8	2	6	1	3	7	9	4
4	7	6	9	2	8	3	5	1
8	5	7	3	6	2	1	4	9
2	4	1	7	5	9	8	3	6
6	9	3	1	8	4	5	2	7

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